WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assistance to shrimp farmers by MPEDA

2969. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA is considering a proposal to set up branches at Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the hinterland around Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram supply huge quantities of shrimp for export;

(c) what steps will be taken to assist shrimp farmers with the latest scientific knowledge by MPEDA;

(d) whether any such scheme is already in place by MPEDA for these areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A Sub-Regional Centre at Bhimavaram and the Quality Control Laboratory at Nellore and Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh have been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). There is no proposal to set up any other field office of MPEDA at Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram.

(b) As per information received from the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, which include the areas of Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram, produce sizable quantities of brackish water shrimp and freshwater prawn for export.

(c) to (e) Technical assistance is extended by MPEDA to the farmers for improvement and development of aquaculture. Workshops, media campaigns, etc. are also organized by MPEDA to educate the aqua farmers.

Guidelines to patent gene sequences

2970. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working to prepare guidelines to Patent gene sequences;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner this move would help India in preventing others from using some biological material for commercial purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Patents Act, 1970 and Rules made thereunder provide for appropriate provisions for examination of patent applications, including those involving gene sequences. The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has prepared a draft Manual of Patent Practice and Procedures which, *inter alia*, provides for examination guidelines.

SEZs planned for Maharashtra

2971. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the special Economic Zones planned and approved for being set up in Maharashtra;

(b) the Central aid sanctioned therefor; and

(c) the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The policy of the Central Government is to encourage and facilitate the Zones being set up in the private sector or joint sector in association with the State Government or by the State Governments themselves. On the basis of the proposals received, approvals have so far been granted for setting up of the following SEZs in Maharashtra in the private/joint/State sector:—

Location	Name of the Developer
Navi Mumbai	City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited.
Khopta, District Raigad	Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructure Limited.